

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a remote provider, the method comprising steps of:

receiving, at the user location, a plurality of signals from a plurality of transponders, wherein:

each signal of the plurality of signals is associated with a transponder,

and

each signal comprises a plurality of programs having a start time associated therewith, the start time of each signal being staggered such that no two start times occur simultaneously;

each time the start time for one of the signals occurs, determining if any of a first segment of each of ~~the~~ **[[a]]** plurality of programs ~~of the one of the signals sent from the remote provider~~ are not already stored at the user location;

recording₁ at the user location₁ any first segment of each of the plurality of programs that are not already stored at the user location, wherein determining if any first segment of the plurality of programs are not already stored at the user location and recording any first segment that is not already stored at the user location are performed before any user request for any of the plurality of programs;

detecting the user request for one of the plurality of programs after storing the first segment of each of plurality of programs at the user location; and

recording₂ at the user location₂ a second segment of the one of the plurality of programs at the user location in response to the detecting step.

10. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of recording any remaining segments of the one of the plurality of programs.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, wherein the first segment is sent on a first digital channel and the second segment is sent on a second digital channel.

12. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, wherein the first segment and the second segment are on different transponders.

13. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of playing the one of the plurality of programs.

14. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, wherein the detecting step comprises steps of:

receiving a wireless request from a remote control; and
processing the wireless request to determine a desired program.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the remote provider as recited in claim 9, wherein the first listed recording step comprises a step of recording the first segment on a mass storage device associated with a set top box at the user location.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content provider, the method comprising steps of:

receiving, at the user location, signals from a plurality of transponders,

wherein:

each signal is associated with a transponder, and

each signal comprises a plurality of programs having a start time associated therewith, the start time of each signal being staggered such that no two start times occur simultaneously;

each time a start time occurs, recording at the user location a first segment of all of ~~the~~ **[a]** plurality of programs **associated with that start time sent from the content provider to the user location** before any user request for the program;

detecting the user request for a selected program of the plurality of programs after recording the first segment of all of the plurality of programs; and

recording at the user location a second segment of the selected program **at the user location if the user request is detected before a stagger period expires, wherein the stagger period is less than a duration of the program.**

20. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the content provider as recited in claim 19, wherein the detecting step comprises a step of detecting the user request for the program during the step of recording the first segment.

21. (Original) The method for receiving the program by the user location that is sent from the content provider as recited in claim 19, wherein the recording steps comprise a step of recording on a rotating disk at the user location.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 **[22]**, wherein the first segment of each of the plurality of programs are sent from the content provider on the same channel.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the second segment of the one of the plurality of programs is sent from the content provider more than once and on more than one channel.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19[[25]], wherein the first segment of each of the plurality of programs are sent from the content provider on the same channel.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the second segment of the selected program is sent from the content provider more than once and on more than one channel.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the second digital channel does not send the first segment.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first digital channel does not send the second segment.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first segment is sent only once.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first segment is sent via a first delivery mechanism and the second segment is sent via a second delivery mechanism.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the first delivery mechanism comprises a cable television network and the second delivery mechanism comprises a broadband network connection.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the user location comprises a residence of the user.

34.-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein the user location further comprises a Set Top Box (STB) at the residence of the user.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the user location comprises a residence of the user.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the user location comprises a Set Top Box (STB).